



# Messiah Messenger

**JULY / AUGUST 2021**

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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[www.messiahny.com](http://www.messiahny.com)**

**Rev. Nils Niemeier ~ Pastor  
Rev. Stephen Unger ~ Associate Pastor  
Thom Brownworth ~ Deacon**



Dear Brothers and Sisters at Messiah,

My first year at Messiah has been one of many challenges and joys. Moving to Long Island and getting established was and continues to be difficult, given the general state of affairs gripping the country in 2020-2021. But it has also been a challenging time for Messiah as we have navigated the terrain of a post-COVID

world, with capacity restrictions, quarantines, and the anxieties that come with an invisible, infectious agent. But, in spite of these tests, we have weathered the storm and come out on the other side. Indeed, much good has happened during this unprecedented year!

Since my arrival last summer, we returned to in-person worship services and began a long (and fruitful) campaign to upgrade our streaming capability to connect more people to our worship services. Despite some initial hiccups, we now have a streaming camera set-up that rivals some TV studios! We were able to celebrate Christmas together—our first big festival together since the start of the shut-downs early last year. I even spent the night from Christmas Eve into Christmas Day at the church just in case the big windstorm that was expected did anything that could have affected services. We were able to celebrate Easter together after Easter had previously been “cancelled.” We celebrated the next generation of leaders in the church with seventeen students confirmed at Messiah in November and May. Two people were joined in holy matrimony this spring, and to top it all, we welcomed a new member into Christ’s church through Holy Baptism in April. In addition to all this, we started new Bible studies and new fellowship opportunities – most recently with an after-church coffee hour.

With all these good things, we have also experienced sorrow, including the deaths of several members of the congregation, Eleanor Walsh, Edna Milany, and Dorothy Doscher, and of our founding pastor, Rev. Henry Koepchen.

And just as we have experienced some new beginnings, we have also experienced the endings of some things this year, namely the closing of the Messiah Preschool and Daycare after some 20

years of service to the community. I know that we are all so very thankful for our director, Wendy Mendriski, Pastor Bell, and all the teachers who have served the preschool and daycare over the years. Their hard work and dedication have touched the lives of many children at Messiah and in the Three Villages. While the ending of this program is a sad occasion, I nonetheless trust that God will continue to guide us at Messiah and present us with new opportunities and ideas for worship and life together, including more opportunities to reach out to our community here in the Three Villages. Pastor Unger and I have continually challenged and encouraged all of us to contemplate the ways in which God is calling us to be the Church to one-another and in our community. Think on these things: How is God calling us and challenging us to use our gifts and talents to reach people in our community? How is He calling us and challenging us to use our gifts and talents to strengthen our mutual life and faith at Messiah, and to *grow together* in faith, hope, and love? I invite you to join us in contemplating this calling we have been given, both for our life together *right now* and to continue to reinvigorate our ministry at Messiah as we go forward.

This summer we have an opportunity to make up for lost time. Thankfully, more and more people are returning to church, now that the threat of COVID has diminished, and it gives us an opportunity to return to first principles regarding who God wants us to be. St. Luke writes in Acts, chapter two, that the congregation of believers in Jerusalem following Pentecost “were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42, NASB). Let us likewise devote ourselves to these things, caring for one another and our neighbors and coming together to worship and receive God’s gifts, being who Christ has called us to be in our baptism.

In His grip and in His service with you,

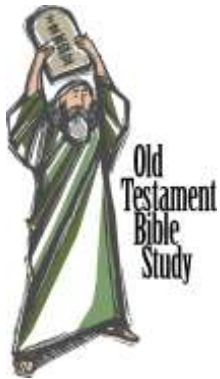
Pastor Nils Niemeier

## **AN UPDATE ON MASKS IN WORSHIP:**

**Effective June 15, 2021 New York State lifted COVID-19 restrictions as 70 percent of New Yorkers aged 18 or older have received the first dose of their COVID-19 vaccination series.**

Given that the CDC has advised that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks and 70 percent of New Yorkers over the age of 18 have received the first dose of their COVID-19 vaccination series, as a result, **the wearing of masks while attending services at Messiah will now be optional.** As the safety and wellbeing of our congregation is of the utmost importance to us, we respect the rights of all people at Messiah to choose what is best for them and their families at this time.

**The wearing of masks will be left to individual discretion.**



## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

We are now in the **Book of Ruth!**

Join Pastor Niemeier on

**Wednesday evenings at**

**5:30 pm** as we read through the whole of Scripture together. This class is still being presented as a hybrid class, for in-person and online instruction using Zoom. Please sign-up at the link on [www.messiahny.com](http://www.messiahny.com) or call the church office to get the codes to join!



The Thursday night Women's Bible Study will break for the summer and reconvene after Labor Day. The upcoming theme, date & time details will be announced in late August. Look for details in your email and on the church website.



**1** John Tanzi,  
**2** Linda Unger, Elizabeth Sackett,  
Dorothy Baum  
Barbara Brownworth,  
**5** Melanie Mackey,  
**6** Megan Connolly

**10** Rachel Anderson **11** Teddy Record,  
**12** Zachary Frank, **14** Phyllis Grebe, **15** Olivia Moravick  
**16** Jillian Mackey, Elizabeth Smith, **17** Libby Star,  
**18** Barbara Robertson, Rebekah Detwiler  
**20** Mary Jane Cirisano, **21** Thom Brownworth  
**22** Patricia Collins, **25** Thatcher Bell, Jillian Bell  
**26** Steven Jones, **27** Michael Schneider **28** Robert Baum,  
Jessica Musano, Samantha Collins,  
**29** Keith Harris III, Olivia Tantillo,  
**30** Paul TeNyenhuis  
**31** Erin Yoos, Ethan Young, Jake Gazura



**4** Guy Gourlay, Christopher Retzlaff,  
**5** Zachary Furrer, **6** Michael Bayles  
**7** Rachel Dennis  
**9** Heather Schmidke, Amberly Smith,  
**10** Patricia TeNyenhuis,  
**11** Tonja Detwiler, **12** Justin

McGrady, Nicholas Gross  
**13** Joshua Carey, **14** Alexander Gross, Jacob Baum,  
**15** Christina Gross, Caiden Hassell,  
Sophie Galasso, **16** Anne Marie Jones, Deanna Tarquinio  
**19** Genevieve Moravick, James Liszanckie IV  
**20** Ashlynn McCabe, Eric Scianna, Joseph Anderson,  
Emma Clontz, **21**, Sharon Van Dyke  
**22** Rachel Blasco, Travis Collins, **25** Julia Evans  
**27** Dylan McCabe,  
**31** Marcie Marcinowski, Derek Andersen,,Felicity Hyams,  
Emma McCabe

## VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED!



Messiah is in the process of upgrading our A/V equipment for live-streaming services, and we need your help! We are looking for a number of individuals who would be interested in running the camera and live-stream on Sunday mornings or for midweek services.

Please contact Pastor Niemeier or Deacon Thom Brownworth if you are interested in learning how to use our new equipment and how to broadcast a service.

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

For our **July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting**, LWML needs, receiving blankets, dark hand towels and dark bath towels, wide-tooth combs, 70 sheet notebooks wide or college ruled. Thank you to all who are making our Lutheran World Relief kits possible!



**JOIN US on Sunday, July 11th**  
**after the 9:30 service!** The main course will be catered by Smokey Bones Barbecue in Ronkonkoma. Please feel free to bring sides, desserts, and drinks if you so desire. We ask that you bring prepackaged food, deli items, and fruits and vegetables that can be washed. See sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please indicate your name, number of guests, and what you will bring.

In the event of rain, the picnic will be held indoors in the education wing.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
WWW.MESSIAHNY.COM**

There you can **register for our Sunday services** held at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. You can also **register for Sunday School and Confirmation Classes.**

Now that we are living in the “new normal” of corona virus, quick communication between the church and congregation is crucial to keep you apprised of updates, service times, classes, etc. For this reason, we requested that you provide us with up-to-date **contact information including your e-mail address.** This will enable us to better reach you with information about events at church, new services, and messages from our pastors and boards.



Also, don't forget to subscribe to Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church's **YouTube** page! Here you'll find archived videos of streamed services, messages from the pastors, devotionals and other video resources.

Please share these videos with your friends and family! We would love to connect them to the life-giving Gospel every week through the preaching and services here at Messiah!



**Are You on Social Media?  
We have a Facebook Page  
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church**

On the Church Facebook page, you will find information about church services and COVID-19 updates as well as devotionals and meditations. On the Preschool page, you will find information about our preschool program and registration forms.

Follow our pages today! You can find links to both our Facebook and YouTube pages on our website,  
**[www.messiahny.com](http://www.messiahny.com).**



**SUPPORT MINISTRY AT  
MESSIAH WITH  
FAITHSTREET**

FaithStreet provides you with the ability to make your pledges/offerings online to support Messiah's various programs and ministries. FaithStreet allows you to give one-time, weekly, monthly or twice per month via your bank account, credit card, and debit card (just like you pay your utility bills). You can make your offerings online or via text. It's safe and secure, supported by the most robust and up-to-date security available. This will help the church keep a consistent flow of funds throughout the year. To give via FaithStreet, go to our website, [www.messiahny.com](http://www.messiahny.com). In the upper right-hand corner click on MORE, click on ONLINE GIVING/DONATION and it will take you to the link for Faithstreet.com to set up your on-line giving account.





### **GARDEN CLUB HELP NEEDED**

Do you like to garden? Come help the Garden Club beautify the church grounds!

We meet on Tuesdays at 10am, weather permitting.

The current members of the Garden Club are slowing down and we need help from our young people! If there are any teenagers or groups (Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts) who would like to help out and need community service hours, please contact us at [info@messiahny.com](mailto:info@messiahny.com)

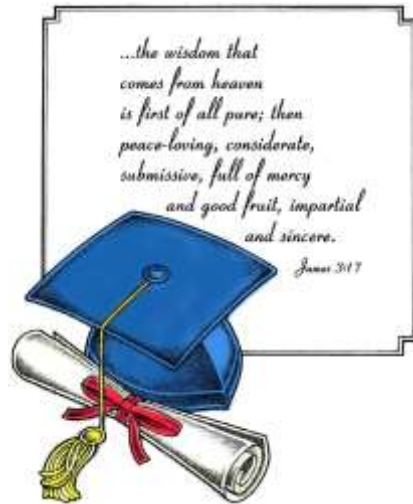
Can't make Tuesdays? Come any day you can. Speak to one of the members of the Garden Club for more information.

After service on Sundays, we will be holding a coffee fellowship under the portico. Come join us for good coffee, snacks, tea, juice, and good conversation with you church family.

We miss everyone and would like to start getting back to church & fellowship.



If you are interested in having flowers at the altar in honor of an event or in memory of someone, please see the "Visitor Information" sheet in the pews. Please note: a flower donation envelope must be submitted with your payment of \$50 including information to be in the announcements.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Natalie Anderson  
Julia Evans  
James Gruenfelder  
Rebecca Lyman  
Ryan Schmidke

Elizabeth Blasco  
Jason Flynn  
Anthony Liotta  
Madison Mendriski  
Libby Star



We have begun our summer worship schedule of one service at **9:30 am** followed by coffee fellowship and Sunday Vacation Bible School after the service. We look forward to seeing you!



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